

# TORREYA

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## THE AUSTRIAN FIELD-CRESS AGAIN

JOHN K. SMALL

Notes by Albert A. Hansen on the Austrian field-cress—*Radicula austriaca* (Crantz), *Nasturtium austriacum* Crantz, *Roripa austriaca* Spach—in the September-October (1922) number of TORREYA reminded us of some specimens and correspondence received at The New York Botanical Garden in 1918 and 1920.

Under date of June 10, 1918, Professor A. L. Stone of the University of Wisconsin wrote:

“Under separate cover I am sending you a plant which has developed very obnoxious qualities in one of our farm fields. Just how the plant first became established is a mystery but it seems probable that the seeds were in some alfalfa which was sown on this field about three years ago. I have searched through the authorities on the cruciferae and I am unable to satisfy myself that I am correct in the identification of the plant. If it is one of the [native] cruciferae I believe it must be a variation from the type.

“Will you kindly identify the plant for me and if the specimen which I am sending does not arrive in sufficiently good condition I shall be glad to send another plant.”

A week later Professor Stone wrote further:

“Your letter of June 15th has been received and I note your request for fruit-bearing samples of the yellow crucifer which I recently sent you.

“Peculiarly enough this plant has shown a decided resemblance to the *Armoracia Armoracia* in that it seems to produce no fruit in this section of the country. Its roots seem to have exactly the same characteristics as those of the horse-radish in that a very small piece of the root will propagate a new plant. Depending as it does upon its roots for propagation it seems to have no need of seed production and for that reason has not

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shown any fruit. I shall watch the plants very closely and if on any of them fruits are produced during the season I shall be glad to send you specimens. It may be possible that by growing a few of the plants in my garden I will be able to bring about fruit production. I shall attempt it at any rate and if I am at all successful I shall be glad to let you know it.

"I think I told you in my former letter that this plant has been spreading over an acre or more of our fields being carried largely on the tools in the preparation of the field for crops."

Just two years later Professor Stone after securing specimens from which we could make a positive specific identification, wrote as follows:

"You may recall that . . . I sent you a specimen of a crucifer which has appeared on the Station farm and which was causing us a great deal of difficulty, No one of us here has been able to identify it, and at the time I sent you the specimen last summer you wrote me that you were much interested in it, but were unable to identify it without the seed pods. I wrote you at that time that like the *Armoracia Armoracia* this plant produced [immature] pods only, which then withered and failed to produce seed.

"I am sending you under separate cover wrapped in damp material another specimen of this plant. You will note that while small seed pods have formed all of them gradually withered away. It has been our experience that during the three years which we have been working with the plant that it has never produced mature seeds.

"I think I wrote you last year that I inferred that the plant had been brought to the University farm through an importation of alfalfa seed purchased from Turkestan.

"Very numerous specimens of weeds are sent to our laboratory each summer, but never have we had specimens of this plant sent to us, and I feel certain that they would have been had it appeared any where else in the State because its habits are such as to cause much anxiety to any farmer if it appears on his farm. In none of our reference works which have been examined thus far have I been able to discover any mention or description of a plant with the habits of growth of this one and for this reason I am inclined to think that we have either an introduced plant or a new species and I hope during the progress of the summer to determine which."

The specimens referred to above are in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden.

The quotations from Professor Stone's letters give the history of the introduction of the Austrian field-cress in Wisconsin. Mr. Hansen's paper, referred to above speaks for New York. The occurrence and firm establishment of the plant in these States leads us to suspect that it may also be found in other States and, perhaps, also in Ontario. The prolific and vigorous underground stem-system, far surpassing that of any of our other species of *Radicula* will render it very difficult of eradication if it becomes established.

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## FLORA OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHOLD, LONG ISLAND

STEWART H. BURNHAM AND ROY A. LATHAM

Third Supplementary List, Part 2\*

### POLYPORACEAE†

*Cyclomyces Greenii* Berk.—Earth in low woods at Cutchogue; reported in Mycol. Notes 65: 1077. Nov. 1920.

*Fomes applanatus* (Pers.) Fr.—On trunks of *Baccharis halimifolia* at Orient; reported as *Fomes leucophaeus* Mont. in Mycol. Notes 65: 1077. Nov. 1920.

*Fomes conchatus* (Pers.) Fr.—On trunks of *Baccharis halimifolia* at Orient; reported in Mycol. Notes 65: 1077. Nov. 1920.

*Fomes connatus* Fr.—On trunks of *Salix nigra* at Southold.

*Polyporus epileucus* Fr.—On *Quercus velutina* at Greenport; Dr. Lloyd says "a rare species."

*Polyporus galactinus* Berk.—Cutchogue on old wood.

*Polyporus rutilans* (Pers.) Fr.—On *Quercus velutina* at Greenport.

*Polyporus Schweinitzii* Fr.—Southold on coniferous wood.

*Polystictus fomicola* B. & C.—On earth in dry woods, Southold; determined by Dr. Lloyd, who says; "We refer this to *Polystictus fomicola* on its large pores, although in reality it is a 'new species.' It is a large pored form of *Polystictus cinnamomeus* with bright cinnamon color, while *Polystictus fomicola* proper is a large poroid form of *Polystictus perennis* with dull color."

\* Part one of this list was published in *Torreyia*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1923.

† The Polypores were determined by Dr. C. G. Lloyd and are preserved in the Herbarium of the Lloyd Museum and Library at Cincinnati, Ohio.